

I had suggested, which I was not really fond of and didn't really think was the ultimate solution but a stop-gap measure, to have a mandatory, expedited vote in 2½ years, 30 months after implementation of the Gallegly provision, to see the impact of the Gallegly provision on delinquency, on education, and on family life, and then a second vote at the end of 5 years, 60 months. I felt that the Gallegly amendment would, if presented in isolation, be rejected by the Congress, and that we would not deny education to children in this country regardless of the status of their parents. But I believe, after a lot of deliberation, the issue has been resolved.

I am looking forward to the conference which will start in just a few minutes in which we will delete the Gallegly amendment so that the States will not have the option to deny education to children regardless of their parents' status. We can bring this immigration reform bill to the floor, and we can pass it and, I think, have it signed into law.

I thank the Chair. In the absence of any other Senator, Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MR. PEROT AND THE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I would like to comment briefly on the decision to exclude Mr. Perot from the upcoming Presidential debates. I want to make it clear from the outset that I support my President and I support my party, but I do believe that Mr. Perot ought to be included in these debates. After all, Mr. Perot and his party have now qualified to be on the ballot in all 50 States in this Nation. He has become eligible for Federal funding. In fact, he will receive nearly \$30 million in Federal funding, based on his previous performance. Last election he received nearly 20 percent of the vote nationwide, and some exit polls indicate he would have done even better if people had not already made the judgment that he could not win. In polling that has been done this year, 76 percent of the American people have indicated they would like to see him included.

I think, for all of those reasons, Mr. Perot deserves to be included. But I think there are other reasons as well. I think Mr. Perot has made a significant contribution to the national debate and discussion over deficit reduction. Frankly, if you go back to the 1992 debates and the 1992 campaign, Mr. Perot can rightfully claim that he served as a prod to both parties to discuss deficit reduction. I believe that remains one of

the foremost challenges this country faces. Mr. Perot would help the debate, in terms of a focus on deficit reduction.

Mr. Perot has also made a contribution in two other areas that have received very little attention during this Presidential campaign. First, with respect to the question of trade, he has a different view than either the Republican challenger, Mr. Dole, or the incumbent President, President Clinton. This country deserves a debate and discussion on trade policy as part of this Presidential campaign.

Finally, I think Mr. Perot has also made a contribution with respect to the question of campaign finance reform. We have heard virtually nothing in this campaign about campaign finance reform.

I hope the Presidential commission will review their decision and decide to include Mr. Perot. Again, I emphasize, I am not a Perot supporter. I do not intend to vote for him for President of the United States. I intend to support the President. I intend to support my party. I think the President has an outstanding record in terms of actually delivering on deficit reduction.

I recall very well, when the President came in, in 1992, he inherited a budget deficit of \$290 billion. That has now been reduced, by the best estimate for this year, to \$116 billion, about a 60-percent reduction. In fact, the deficit has come down every year for 4 years in a row.

Partly because of the Clinton economic plan that was passed in 1993—that was a deficit reduction plan—I believe we have seen the resurgence of this economy. We have become the most competitive nation in the world, replacing Japan. Not only have we seen a dramatic reduction in the deficit, but we have seen a significant strengthening of economic growth. We have had the strongest private sector economic growth on this President's watch than on that of the last three Presidents. We have also seen the lowest misery index—the measure of inflation and unemployment—in 28 years. Business investment is increasing at a rate that is the highest in 30 years. We have seen the creation of more than 10 million new jobs during this President's term.

I think this President has an outstanding record to take before the American people. But I think most of us also know that the job is not finished. The job is not yet completed. More needs to be done. I do believe Mr. Perot would play a positive role in putting a focus on the additional deficit reduction that needs to be made in this country.

As I have stated, I also believe he would make a positive contribution to a debate on trade policy and with respect to the question of campaign finance reform. I am sure the occupant of the chair may share these views. Or perhaps not.

I do think the commission's decision is fatally flawed. When they make a determination that somebody not be in-

cluded because they have no realistic chance of winning, what are they going to do when one of the two major candidates has no realistic prospect of winning? We have had several Presidential campaigns where that was the case. Let's go back to the 1984 Presidential race with Ronald Reagan as the incumbent President. There was no realistic chance anybody was going to beat him. Should we have canceled the Presidential debates altogether?

This year we see the challenger 17 points behind. Nobody has ever made up that kind of gap. Should the Presidential commission determine Mr. Dole has no realistic chance of winning the election, and therefore cancel the debates? The logic used by the commission—that because somebody does not have a realistic prospect of winning the election they should be excluded from the debates—is a slippery slope.

We ought to include those who have met the tests that Mr. Perot has met. I understand Mr. Perot is a controversial figure. His 1992 Presidential campaign—with his entrance into the race, his withdrawal, and his reentrance—raised many questions. But we are still left with some basic facts.

First, he has qualified to be on the ballot in all 50 States. He has done that. His party has qualified to be on the ballot in every State in the Nation.

Second, he has become eligible for Federal matching funds. The only people who have managed to do that this year are Bill Clinton, Bob Dole, and Ross Perot. Nobody else has qualified to get Federal matching funds.

Third, he received nearly 20 percent of the national vote in the last election. I think that merits inclusion in these debates. Finally, perhaps most important, the vast majority of the American people, according to the polls, want him included. They want to hear a debate that includes Mr. Perot. It does not mean they want to vote for him necessarily, but they want to see him included in the debate.

As I have said before, I think he has demonstrated he has made a positive contribution on the issues of deficit reduction, trade, and campaign finance reform.

So, I hope the Presidential commission will review their decision and decide to include Mr. Perot without having a court have to review this decision for them.

I thank the Chair, yield the floor, and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The distinguished Senator's thoughtful comments are well received, and the clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order for not to exceed 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The distinguished Senator from West Virginia is recognized.

Mr. BYRD. I thank the Chair.

SENATOR JIM EXON

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I pay tribute today to Senator JAMES EXON, who is completing his third term in the Senate and has unfortunately, decided to retire. His retirement caps a long and distinguished career of public service unique to his home State of Nebraska. JIM EXON and I have served together on the Armed Services Committee, and I have admired his strong support of our national defense. At the same time, as a conservative, and as ranking member on the Senate Budget Committee, Senator EXON has had a practical, direct, moderate temperament which has put him in tune with national sentiment on the need to control spending. He has been a leader of efforts to balance the budget, and that includes a need to reduce defense spending where possible, given the end of the cold war, and particularly in tempering the tendency to throw too much money on expensive new hardware systems.

JIM EXON is against waste and he has put his legislative shoulders behind that effort. He would agree with William Shakespeare, who wrote in *King Henry V*:

I can get no remedy
against this consumption of
the purse: borrowing only
lingers and lingers it out,
but the disease is incurable.

JIM EXON will be missed here. I shall miss his candid style, his no-nonsense temperament, and his refreshing directness, all of which are mixed with a down-home sense of humor. As a Senator, JIM EXON has always retained a modest sense of himself, never succumbing to the inflation of ego, which is a constant temptation in a body so much in the national limelight.

Senator EXON's success as a three-term Senator follows a string of other successes. After graduating from the University of Omaha in 1942, he volunteered for the U.S. Army Signal Corps and served in the Pacific theater in New Guinea, in the Philippines, and, finally, in Japan, and was honorably discharged as a master sergeant in December of 1945. He returned from the war to start a business career and developed a very successful office equipment company.

At the same time, he followed in his family's political footsteps. His grandfather served as a county judge in South Dakota, and JIM's early grassroots experience came in campaigning for his grandfather there. JIM started in politics by becoming a prominent leader of the Nebraska Democratic Party, serving as State vice chairman and National Committeeman.

JIM came to the Senate in 1978 after having served as the Governor of Ne-

braska for two terms from 1970-1978, longer than any other person in that State's history. The experience served him well. He was rewarded by the people of Nebraska when he achieved the unique accomplishment of having been elected directly to the United States Senate.

JIM EXON comes from the heartland of America and is an admirable reflection of the values, the solid citizenship, and the loyalty that characterize our heartland. He reflects the basic American values that honor family, fiscal responsibility, and national security.

Last year in the context of landmark telecommunications reform legislation, he was the author of a provision intending to protect children from computer pornography by making it illegal to send indecent material to a child or display it on computer screens where children can access it.

He has been, as well, a leader in protecting American businesses from takeovers by foreign firms in the area of national security. Known as the Exon-Florio law, passed in 1988, this act gave the President authority to investigate and stop foreign takeovers of American companies in the case where the takeover would threaten U.S. national security.

JIM EXON is rock solid. This year he and his wife, Patricia, will have celebrated their 53rd wedding anniversary, which goes to show that you can still stay married to your first wife a long, long time. He returns to Nebraska to join his three children, Steve, Pam, and Candy, along with his eight grandchildren, a very wealthy man he is indeed—eight grandchildren.

In citing his reasons for retirement, JIM EXON laments recent trends in American politics, such as the "vicious polarization of the electorate," the erosion of the art of honest compromise as the essence of the Democratic process, and the negative attack ads dominating current political campaigns. As he departs, I hope that he will be a continuing force against these trends and that he, at least, will help inculcate in the new men and women who are entering politics in Nebraska the same values of fairness; good humor; practical, independent sense—common sense—and honest achievement that have so clearly emphasized and characterized his own career.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The absence of a quorum has been suggested. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BUMPERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THOMAS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR DAVID PRYOR

Mr. BUMPERS. Mr. President, I have come to the floor this morning to pay

tribute to my distinguished retiring colleague, DAVID PRYOR.

When I think about Congress suffering—and I use the term "suffering" advisedly—the largest number of retirees in 100 years, I have a tendency to wax eloquent about my own personal beliefs as to why that is happening. There are 13 Senators who have chosen to leave voluntarily this year. Among them are some of the very best.

I have confessed on occasion when I didn't think it would hurt me politically to the fact that I am not a terribly effective legislator because I have a very difficult time compromising. I have strong beliefs, and sometimes compromise is just out of the question for me. And, yet, we all know that 535 Members of the Congress cannot each have his or her own way on every issue.

But the people who are retiring are essentially people who are very good legislators because they understand the art of politics; the necessity for compromise. And I call them "bridge builders"—because they don't let stand between them differences in philosophies and personalities. As the U.S. Senate has become more ideological and more entrenched in hard core ideas, where name calling somehow or other has become the substitute for ideas, we need bridge builders.

DAVID PRYOR was born in Camden, Ouachita County, AR, in 1934 to very devoted parents. All of DAVID's life manifest in his personality and character is the unexcelled upbringing he enjoyed.

He graduated from the University of Arkansas Law School in 1964 with an LLB degree, went home to his native Camden and established a newspaper called the *Ouachita Citizen* that he operated for 4 years. During that period of time he was also elected to the Arkansas State legislature, to the House of Representatives, for three terms—1960, 1962, and 1964.

I remember—I guess it was 1966—when DAVID was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. It was in 1968 that I met him for the first time, and that was just one of those typical political handshakes. The Democratic Party was having a forum in Little Rock. I had the itch to run for Governor in 1968. Luckily for me I chose not to do it that year. But DAVID PRYOR spoke at this meeting in Little Rock in 1968. And I was absolutely awe-stricken—he was good looking, articulate, and had some very good ideas. And I thought how wonderful it must be to serve in the House of Representatives and be able to come here and say these things for this giant crowd here this evening. And it only piqued my interest in running for office that much more.

So besides my father, who actually encouraged me to go into politics when I was a child, DAVID was my next inspiration because of that evening in Little Rock in 1968.

After losing a race for the Senate in 1972, he came back in 1974 and ran for Governor and won handily, and served